

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00110 141138Z

13

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

IO-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06

NSC-05 OES-03 OMB-01 SS-15 /081 W

----- 020799

R 141122Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2358

DEA HQS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 110

ANKARA AND BEIRUT FOR DEA REP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, SY

SUBJ: MEETING WITH SYRIAN NARCOTICS OFFICIALS

1. ON DECEMBER 12, DEA REPS MARIA AND LEAMEY AND EMBASSY NARCOTICS OFFICER DONALD MUDD HELD CORDIAL ONE-HOUR MEETING WITH CHIEF SYRIAN INTERPOL LT. COL. MUMTAZ FETAYAH AND CHIEF SYRIAN NARCOTICS POLICE TO DISCUSS SYRIAN NARCOTICS SITUATION AND BILATERAL COOPERATION.

2. SARG OFFICIALS EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT ENTERING INTO DIRECT CONTACT WITH EMBASSY AND DEA ON NARCOTICS MATTERS. WHILE DISCOUNTING PRESENCE ANY CURRENT DRUG PROBLEM IN SYRIA, THEY RECOGNIZED U.S. INTEREST IN PRESENT AND POTENTIAL PATTERNS OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TRAFFIC WHICH MIGHT INCLUDE SYRIAN AND STATED WILLINGNESS TO SHARE SYRIAN INFORMATION ON TRAFFICKING AND TRAFFICKERS WITH U.S. THEY RECOGNIZED THAT ALEPPO HAD BEEN A PROCESSING AND TRANSIT POINT IN PAST ON ROUTES TO AND FROM TURKEY. TENTATIVE PLANS WERE MADE FOR BEIRUT SAIC TO RETURN TO DAMASCUS NEXT MONTH FOR FURTHER MEETINGS.

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3. EMBASSY JUDGES THIS INITIAL CONTACT WITH SYRIAN
NARCOTICS AUTHORITIES AS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT WHICH
CAN OPEN WAY FOR CLOSER COOPERATION WITH SARG IN
NARCOTICS FIELD. IN ADDITION TO FURTHER VISITS BY
SAIC BEIRUT, SUGGEST WE BEGIN THINKING ABOUT ORIENTATION
VISIT TO U.S. FOR GROUP OF SENIOR SYRIAN NARCOTICS
OFFICIALS EARLY IN FY 76.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, MEETINGS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750013-1081
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750155/aaaabvrt.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <05 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH SYRIAN NARCOTICS OFFICIALS
TAGS: SNAR, SY
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006